1	2	3
47.	The Elgin Mills Ltd.	17035.79
48.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engg.	5052.95
49.	Project & Dev. India Ltd.	6719.49
50.	Mandya National Paper Ltd.	5556.35
51.	Tyre Corpn. Ltd.	8599.34
52.	Weighbird India Ltd.	824.66
53.	Bharat Referatories Ltd.	6555.00
54.	Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd.	1622.19
55.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	2210.02
56.	Braithwaite Ltd.	4673.00
57.	Smith Stanistreet Phar. Ltd.	2393.00
58.	U. P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	322.44
59.	National Instruments Ltd.	5483.92
60.	Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd.	7764.97
61.	Bengal Chemicals & Phar. Ltd.	7478.17
62.	National Textile Corpn. Ltd.	16938.47

Single exchange rate for Rouble

2248. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the single exchange rate for Rouble introduced by Central Bank of Russia on the 1st July, 1992 had brought down India's debt towards the erstwhile Soviet Union from 38000 crore rupees to Rs. two hundred and fifty crores only;

(b) whether there was any dialogue between India and Russia in the iignt ot the new exchange rate; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (c) The Government of the former USSR had extended various credits to India num. 1955 onwards. The credits were denominated in Roubles, but repayments were made in rupees by means of exports of Indian goods. India's total outstanding debt to the former USSR as on 31-3-1992 was 11223.12 million Roubles.

The rate of exchange between the rupee and the roubles was established by the Indo-USSR Protocol of November, 1978. When the Protocol was signed the exchange rate was Rouble 1.00=Rs. 10.00 The last notified exchange rate was Rouble 1.00=Rs. 31.7874.

With the shift of the Rouble towards market-based currency, the Government of India have held several rounds of negotiations with the former USSR and present Russian Government for a revision of the rupee-rouble exchange rate. The talks have so far been inconclusive. The quantum of India's debt to the former USSR in terms of rupees can be established only after a resolution of the rupee-rouble exchange rate issue.

Evasion of Customs duty on Import of Automatic soft Drinks and Ice-Cream Machines

2249. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of soft drink automatic vending and disposer machine and ice-cream machines fall under the customs tariff heading No. 8476:11, for the purpose of classification and assessment of customs duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the import of the said complete machine is being resorted to by scrupulous importers under custom tariff heading 8418:99, .by

{Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur]

declaring the said machines as parts of components, thereby evading proper customs duty payable; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken to check the financial Joss to the country by way of short payment of custom duty on the said machine ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Soft drink and ice-cream automatic vending and dispensing machines incorporating refrigerating devices are classifiable under heading No. 8476.11 of the Customs Tariff. Such machines not incorporating refrigerating devices are, however, classifiable under heading No. 8476.19 ibid.

(b) and (c) Ihfromation is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to go for Road Bond by Andhra Pradesh

2250. DR. YELAMANCHILI : Will the Minister of FINiANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking permission to go for Road Bonds;

(b) is so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon alongwith the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Government of Andhra Pradesh, had sought permission to go for Road Bonds on the same terms and conditions applicable to Central Govt. Public Sector Bonds which are already in the market.

(c) The present scheme of public sector bonds is restricted to only these undertakings which are wholly or partly owned by Central Government State level undertakings are to be governed by SEBI guidelines on debentures. Borrowings by the State Government are governed by the Standard requirements of financing annual plans as approved by planning commis sion.

Bank credit available to Agriculture Sector

2251. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Willl the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the total bank credits available to the Agriculture Sector has gone down from 18.8 per cent in the previous year to 8.9 per cent this year; and

(b) if not, what is the percentage of credit available to the Agriculture Sector from banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The amount of outstanding advances' by all scheduled commercial banks to Agriculture Sector as at the end of March 1991 was Rs. 16750 crores and the same rose to Rs. 18187 crores as at the end of March 1992. In terms of percentage, the credit to this Sector formed 15.3% and 15.4% of the total credit extended by all scheduled commercial banks in the corresponding periods.

Revision of Rupee-Rouble Exchange rate

2252. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleas-ed to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with the Government of Russia regarding revision of rupee-rouble exchange rate; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY^ OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.